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2 AMERICANS TURN HEEL

Aaron Grondy, Black Magic change sides

The biggest news this week out of Mexican lucha libre rings is the heel turn of two of its (until now) more popular American stars, Aaron Grondy (Michael Shaw) and The Black Magic (Norman Smiley). These turns occurred on the EMLL television show that was taped on Friday, August 21st, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, and broadcast the very next afternoon at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm local time (=Denver time) on Televisa's channel nine, XEW-TV. (I have to believe that the fact that their time slot's being the only one not moved around or missing from week to week in Mexico City is a big boon to the EMLL.)

But back to the turns. In the main event, Atlantis, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, and The Black Magic teamed up as tecnicos to face the rudo dream team of Jose "el Negro" Casas, el Pirata Morgan, and el Satanico. As happened all night, the tecnicos won, and in this match they won in two straight falls. The first fall went 5:35 before Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon made el Pirata Morgan submit. Then Casas came over and raised The Black Magic's hand "in a gesture of sportmanship." Then Atlantis made el Satanico submit to the torture rack. The second fall went 3:45 (so the match went 9:20) before Saigon Dragon pinned Casas with a moonsault press immediately followed by the german suplex hold. The Black Magic goes to check on his new buddy Casas. Casas then gets up, goes into the crowd, gets a glass of liquid refreshment, and hands it to The Black Magic, who drinks this in the middle of the ring. Then Casas gets on the microphone and tells everyone what a great wrestler The Black Magic is and how Casas wants The Black Magic on the rudo side. The Black Magic then turned to leave to the rudo locker room with Casas but Atlantis grabs The Black Magic's arm to lead him back to the babyface locker room. Roy Lucier gave this match *** while Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David Scherer, back from siesta, gave *** 1/4.

In the semifinal, Aaron Grondy debuted as a heel. He was billed as Grondy and not as Makhan Singh as I thought he would be. Grondy teamed with la Bestia Salvaje and Emilio Charles junior to lose in three falls to el Brazo de Super Porky, Triton, and el Dandy, in a total elapsed time of 14:29. Salvaje made el Dandy submit at 4:18 of the first fall, then Dandy pinned Salvaje with a small package at 3:23 of round two. At the finish of both falls, Porky and Grondy were brawling outside the ring. In the final fall, which went 6:48, Salvaje pinned Dandy with a rolling reverse cradle, but Salvaje put his feet on the ropes "illegally" for leverage. I believe that ring announcer Vitorino (co-owner of promotional rights at la Arena Coliseo) then announced an el Dandy CMLL Title Defense for next week versus la Bestia Salvaje. Triton was said by all to have been very good, and did a super Lyger flip dive over the top rope without touching any ropes. Charles and Plata did a nice comedy spot where Charles kept shoving Plata who had Grondy trapped in the corner, the net result being that Grondy got squashed by Porky's butt about 15 straight times. Yeah, Roy Lucier still loves Emilio. Aaron Grondy's turn got over great, as el Brazo de Plata was the ideal person to turn him on. Both Roy and Dave gave this match ** 3/4.

Two other matches aired, and sadly, the ladies' match of Suzuka Minami, Yumiko Hotta, and la Diabolica del Caribe versus Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales, Mitsuki Wong (Mrs. el Rayo de Jalisco junior), and Atenas was the odd match out. The opener saw tecnicos el Gran Apache I and el Guerrero Samurai II defeat rudos Master and Mario Prado junior two falls to one when, in the third fall, both rudos collided into each other, and both tecnicos sat on top for the double pin. Dave gave this ** and Roy gave this *. Some disagreement there on the grades, but nothing like the other match that aired. In the tercera of the card, and the segunda on television, Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla, el Metalico, and la Mano Negra defeated Lynx, el Supremo I, and el Hijo del Gladiador two falls to zero in a total elapsed time of 19:11. The first fall went 14:25 until Sevilla made Lynx submit. The second fall saw good tecnico dives, but too many; an old rule that is still on the books and is very rarely used caused the rudos to be disqualified: they threw the faces over the top rope onto another face. This "deliberate attempt to injure, not just win" was the technical cause for the DQ. Roy hated this, calling it all rest and no action, and gave it a DUD. Dave gave it ** 1/2. Hey, judge for yourselves. Both Dave and Roy (and Greg Goode, one of the friendliest people anywhere) can get you copies of current EMLL or UWA tapes. Just write them at the addresses listed in past issues or write me here.

EMLL

RESULTS

* The first result I want to cover actually was the main event from la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, from the card held Tuesday night, August 18th, 1992, and was shown in highlight form as the television opener on this week's EMLL television show. This main event saw yet another tecnico victory. Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon teamed with Triton and la Mano Negra to win two out of three falls from Emilio Charles junior, Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, and Jose "el Negro" Casas. The first fall went to the rudos, as all three rudos made all three tecnicos submit pretty much simultaneously. The second fall went to the tecnicos, as they pinned the rudos, all pretty much simultaneously. The third fall went to the tecnicos via disqualification when Jose "el Negro" Casas fouled Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, for the finish. Granted, what aired was highlights, but this one was graded out to be about ***. Dragon and Casas are now each other's main feud partners.

* In an independent card held on Sunday, August 10th, 1992, at la Arena Azteca, local EMLL/independent wrestlers took center stage. The rudo squadron of los Renegados I y II and their partner Arafat (who was said to have looked great) defeated the trio of Lethal, la Tormenta Negra, and el Cicon Azul two falls to none.

* On Tuesday, August 4th, 1992, the main event of the traditional Tuesday night EMLL card at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw Kung Fu team with Pierroth junior and Gargola el Sultan to defeat Apolo Dantes, Atlantis, and The Blue Demon junior two falls to one when Pierroth junior made Dantes submit to "la tiburazon." The semifinal saw el Trio Metalico (Oro, Plata, and Bronce) win two out of three falls from las Cavernicolas I, II, y III (Popitekus, Cro Magnon, and Troglocita). The same Metals are on a roll, as they beat "los Guerreros del Espacio" in matches at la Arena Coliseo on both August 11th and on August 14th at la Arena Coliseo. All three matches had the same storyline, with el Trio Metalico winning the third fall and the match via triple count out.

* The CMLL World Trios Championships were up for grab on Sunday, August 16th, 1992, at "la Plaza de los Toros Monumental" in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, at a spectacular promoted by Carlos Elizondo. The champions were los Intocables del Ring (Pierroth junior, Jaque Mate, and Masakre). The challengers were "el Trio Sexi" (The Latin Lover, The Love Machine, and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense). The champions retained their titles two falls to one. This was the main event of a card celebrating the eighth anniversary of the first lucha libre card at the bull ring. Another celebratory card was this past Sunday, August 23rd, 1992.

* The biggest result, to me, of the week so far came on Tuesday night, August 18th, 1992. At la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, Apolo Dantes successfully defended his NWA World Light Heavyweight Championship. Dantes had won the title on Saturday, July 25th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla, against el Satanico; and it was el Satanico whom Dantes defeated in Cuernavaca. This was Dantes's first title defense.

CARDS

* Also on Friday, August 21st, 1992, but this time at el Auditorio Morelos in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico, the EMLL promoted a double main event card. On top, Lizmark challenged champion Pierroth junior for the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship. And in the second "super estrella," a double hair match was on tap. In this match, both members of the losing team would lose their hair. The combatants were tecnicos el Tiburon and la Cara Dura versus rudos el Guerrero and Tony Padillas.

* The main event of the traditional Saturday night EML card at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, held August 22nd, 1992, saw a non-title match-up where CMLL World Trios Champions los Intocables del Ring (Pierroth junior, Masakre, and Jaque Mate) met los Nuevos Infeinales (el Satanico, el Pirata Morgan, and M. S. 1). Los Infeinales, of course, were the team that los Intocables beat for these titles on 3/22/92.

* The EMLL was back at la Pista Arena Revolucion just 21 hours later, on Sunday, August 23rd, 1992. The main event here featured tecnicos The Love Machine, la Mano Negra, and Cicon Ramirez versus la Nueva Ola Blanca (el Gran Markus junior, el Medico Asesino junior, and el Hijo del Gladiador). El Hijo de Gladiador takes el Angel Blanco junior's place in the regular trio called "la Nueva Ola Blanca" (The New White Wave).

* The Black Magic turned rudo again, no doubt, on the Sunday, August 23rd, 1992 show at Mexico City's la Arena Coliseo. Magic was scheduled to team up with Atlantis and Oro to face Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Jose "el Negro" Casas. Casas would continue his feud with Atlantis as well.

* Also, we have a title defense and a title change to report. The scheduled main event for the traditional Sunday night EMLL card to be held August 23rd, 1992, at la Arena Naucapan in the Mexico City suburb of the same name had the State of Mexico Trios Champions los Guerreros del Futuro (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damian, el Guerrero) defending those titles versus el Trueno, el Metalico, and Talismna junior. The last I'd heard, these trios belts were held by el Trio Metalico (Oro, Plata, and Bronce), so we have a title change and new champions too!

***EMLL* (continued)**

NEWS

* El Satanico got big play in Ovaciones this week, being the honored lead of the picture index 2 straight days.

* The fan club for Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, continues to get major press, but has yet to officially get off the ground! The first meeting was postponed indefinitely.

* New midgets el Felinito and el Pequeno America are set to debut here. By the way, Weekly Gong printed a strange story to explain the absence of America (ex-el Pantera II) from his scheduled tour of Japan this week. The magazine said that America was unable to come because he had previously signed a "mascara contra mascara" match versus el Felino for Friday, August 21st, 1992, which couldn't be further from the truth. Actually, America stayed because he finally got over after his turn to rudo this month, and EMLL promoter Paco Alonso did not want to lose the valuable momentum America had finally built up.

* EMLL wrestlers (an independent wrestlers) interviewed in this week's (8/13/92 issue date) of Titanes del Ring include el Trio Metalico (Oro, Plata, y Bronce), el Felino, el Loco Corona, and several retired ring veterans.

* In this week's Super Luchas magazine, among the wrestlers interviewed were Yumiko Hotta and Suzuka Minami. Also interviewed were AAA wrestlers Rambo and los Matematicos II, III, and IV were also interviewed.

LATE NEWS

First some late news from California. This past Friday night in Bell, California, in a card promoted by Sergio Garcia (he was the referee of all but the last match of the AAA television taping in Los Angeles on July 4th, 1992), two main events were held. In the first, Gory "don't call me Carlos" Chavez won a "caballera contra caballera" match versus Cosmos. In the second, el Fisico Nuclear scored his first ever professional wrestling victory, defeating his arch-nemesis Vandal Drummond two falls to one. Nice to see Drummond back in the ring but is this a full time return? Next Friday night in Bell has a match that insiders have been dreaming about: Cesar Sandia versus Carl "The Natural" Hairston. Ask the local LA-area manager "The Shroud" about his thought on this match-up sometime.

LATE NEWS

I did hear from Roy Lucier about the UWA television show that aired Saturday, August 22nd, 1992, on television (channel 13 in Mexico City). It was taped at Arena Netzahualcoyotl on Friday, August 14th, 1992. Three matches aired. The first saw el Lobo Rubio and Zeus defeat los Dragones Chinos I y II two falls to one in a match full of botched moves that Roy graded at 1/2 *. The semifinal saw el Celestial and el Coloso defeat el Engendro and The Doctor Wagner junior two falls to one after a (what else?) foul by the rudos in the third fall. "God, how horrible" was Roy's description; he gave it 1/4 * for one nice comedy spot revolving around a possible rudo break-up. The main event had el Villano III, Enrique Vera senior, and el Tigre Californiense defeating los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, Migue! "el Negro" Navarro, and The Black Power II) two falls to one in a fairly good brawl that Roy rated at * 1/2. The UWA World Trios Championships held by los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte were not up for grabs here. Roy thought the show, as a whole, stunk, and thought it was the worst of the UWA shows this year (tied with the 4/4/92 travesty). Roy also gets on satellite the same-night transmission of the EMLL show from la Arena Coliseo de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; this week's show was taped and aired on Wednesday, August 19th, 1992. Two matches aired. First, el Asesino Negro, Poseidon, and Arturo Garcia defeated los Gemelitos Diablos and la Arana two falls to one in a ** match. The main event saw los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo, el Brazo de Plata, and el Brazo de Oro) defeat el Hijo del Solitario (are you happy now Dave?), M. S. 1, and el Gran Markus junior two falls to one in a decent ** 1/2 match. Legendary Guadalaran announcer Roberto Torres Garcia called the action. I believe this show is now being broadcast to get the EMLL wrestlers more over in Guadalajara (Mexico's second largest city) and keep the AAA from getting a foothold there. Other late results include from the EMLL show 8/7/92 at la Arena Coliseo, the opener saw el Archangel de la Muerte, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Septiembre Negro junior defeat The Latin Lover, el Trueno, and el Metalico two falls to one. El Felino and Atlantis appeared on a Mexico City television game show called "Retazos Locos."...Another new midget coming to the EMLL is el Pequeno Gladiador....El Villano III this month begins his 21st year of wrestling as a professional...Shu, el Guerrero retained his UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship by defeating Cooley Crush Shoji on August 21st, 1992, at Tokyo's Korakuen Hall. Five days earlier, new UWA Intercontinental/UWF World Tag-Team Champions were crowned, as Pat Tanaka and Bulldog Punish Keiti (aka Takayama) defeated Cooley Crush Shoji (Akiyoshi) and Kendo (akak Transformer) two falls to one. Dave Meltzer was kind enough to give me this information and reports that of all the Japanese wrestler he saw doing Mexican-style lucha libre in Japan, he thinks "The Great Sasuke" (ex-"Masa Michinoku" in Japan and "el Ninja Sasuke" in Mexico) is the best of the young Japanese. Dave is set to report that UWA World Parejas Champions The Can-Am Express I y II are going to cancel their October tour of Mexico to work Giant Baba's All-Japan Promotion and its big sold-out Budokan show. It is said los Cowboys have been talked about some here...

UWA

RESULTS

* On Friday, August 7th, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in suburban Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, Mexico, the main event saw Shu, el Guerrero defeat el Villano III to win the UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship. The finish of the third fall saw III accidentally dropkick referee el Fresero, who had no choice but to DQ III.

* On Tuesday, August 18th, 1992, at la Arena Pachuca in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico, the UWA World Light Heavyweight Championship was on the line in the main event. Champion el Villano V, who had just successfully defended the belt in front of G. Q. Gregory and el Fisico Nuclear versus The Doctor Wagner junior on Thursday, August 13th, 1992, at Mexico City's la Pista Arena Revolucion, was again victorious. Here at Pachuca, el Villano V defeated el Loco Zandokan two falls to one to retain his title.

* On Thursday, August 6th, 1992, at a small spot show in Satillo, Coahuila, Mexico, at el Parque Venustiano Zarnaza, tecnico CHucho "Monzon" Villa defeated el Bastardo two falls to one. In the semifinal, el Tigre Universitario, Pantro of los Thundercats, and Ausente won two of three from Tarahuma, el Mercenario, and el Fugitivo.

CARDS

* The traditional Thursday night card at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City saw a main event featuring el Gigante Samoano Kokina, el Boricua Miguelito Perez junior, and "el Norteamericano" The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) on the rudo side. That trio took on the tecnico team of Enrique Vera senior, el Villano II, and el Villano V. The semifinal saw el Coloso and Aero Flash face el Loco Zandokan and The Doctor Wagner junior. The segunda saw los Espantos IV and V face los Dragones Chinos I and II. And the opener found Frayle Top and la Alas de Fuego square off against el Suspenso and el Angel Negro.

* Also on Thursday, August 20th, 1992, the traditional card at la Arena Toluca in Toluca, Mexico, Mexico, was held. The main event here saw el Villano I team with los Cowboys/Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano) to face los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, Miguel "el Negro" Navarro, and The Black Power II) in a match in which the UWA World Trios Championships held by los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte were not on the line. The semifinal saw The King and el Celestial face el Engendro and Kahos I. The second match saw Lasser and el Ojo de Tigre face los Mohicanos I and II. And the opener had el Soberbio versus el Hombre de Fuego.

* The traditional Friday night card at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in the city of the same name in the state of Mexico, which may or may not have been a television taping, was headlined by this main event: Los Cowboys/Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano) teamed with el Villano III to face el Gigante Samoano Kokina, The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow), and Miguelito Perez junior. The semifinal saw el Loco Zandokan, el Scorpio I, and The Doctor Wagner junior face el Villano I, el Villano V, and Enrique Vera senior. The tercera had la Ola Lila (May Flowers, Rucy "Perfumado" Reyna, and Pimpinela Escarlata) versus el Celestial, el Coloso, and el Tigre Californiese. In the second, los Dragones Chinos I y II met Zeus (ex-Rey Richard) and Casandro. In the opener, el Rudo met Takeda.

* For most of the rest of the cards that I have, I have only sketchy details and the main events, as per usual it seems. I do know that the traditional Saturday night card at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, saw el Villano III and Enrique Vera senior challenge el Gigante Samoano Kokina and Miguelito Perez junior.

* Also on Saturday, August 22nd, 1992, at el Auditorio de San Luis Potosi, in the city and state of the same name, Jose "el Negro" Casas made a rare UWA World Middleweight Championship defense. The opponent was EMILL wrestler Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon. If Dragon won (I doubt it), he might be the first man in history to hold a world title as two wholly different characters, since he previously held the title as Yoshihiro Asai.

* The traditional Sunday card at la Arena "Neza" held August 23rd saw a non-title match as los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II, & Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) met las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos III/IV/V).

* The Sunday afternoon card held August 23rd at la Arena Toluca was headlined by los Hermanos Muerte I y II facing The Black Birds I and II in a "revancha en superlibre" bout.

* Still on Sunday afternoon, August 23rd, 1992, at la Arena Lopez Mateos in Tlalnepantla, Mexico, Mexico, our main event had los Mohicanos I y II and Casandro face el Celestial, Mando Amezcua junior, & Genaro Contreras junior.

* Now, I may have results in the late news section, but the el Toreo card for Sunday, August 23rd, was billed as the final UWA match for the foreseeable future for el Gigante Samoano Kokina, as the papers said he was heading off to the WWF. Can you imagine, for example, the WWF's saying it's the last match in for the Blue Blazer because he's off to the UWA? Anyway, Kokina is not listed in the main event. That sends the returning Christopher Michael Berot (The Pegasus Kid), el Villano III, and Dos Caras in to face Miguelito Perez junior, Shu, el Guerrero, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). Also noted was that los Crazy Star I y II would debut on this show.

UWA (Continued)

* And finally, on Monday night, August 24th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, the main event of the traditional Monday night card here saw The Pegasus Kid, Enrique Vera senior, and Dos Caras face Miguelito Perez junior, The Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow).

NEWS

* In this week's **Titanes del Ring**, The Killer and Andy Barrow are interviewed, revealing little. Mil Mascaras is the subject of this week's "Metroposter," next week will be Carlos Elio "el Coloso" Colicetti (must be old-timers month). Also interviewed were several local independent stars, including "el Loco Corona," "el Chamao Valverde," "Super Bolido," and referee "el Conejo" (Antonio Abrego Lopez).

* The senior lucha libre reporter at **Ovaciones**, Francisco Arturo Rosas Plata, went back to "el Gimnasio Olimpico" on the corner of Bombay and Garibaldi streets in Mexico City's central area to interview the father-and-son duo of los Enrique Veras senior and junior; though the interview was done on Thursday, August 20th, 1992, and was the second such interview in the last ten days, it has yet to be published.

* A new masked wrestler called "Dragon Lee" is set to debut here soon.

AAA

RESULTS

* One result from Thursday August 6th, 1992, at la Arena Azteca in the Parada Los Olivos suburb of Mexico City. The main event saw el Volador and el Misterioso defeat Fuerza Guerrera and el Espanto junior two falls to one. The finish of the third fall saw a disqualification called on el Espanto junior for his accidentally punching the referee "el Vaselina." Make your own jokes about that referees' name...

* And, in a surprise to absolutely no one, Konnan el Barbaro won a hair match versus el Rey Gestas two falls to one last Saturday, August 15th, 1992, in the main event of the card at la Arena Apatiaco in the Mexico City suburbs.

CARDS

* This week's television taping was held Friday, August 21st, 1992, at "el Auditorio del Pueblo" in Pueblo, Durango, Mexico. This will air on Galavisión on August 30th, 1992. The main event featured an all-rudo battle as los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil) squared off against el Sicodelico, el Cobarde Segundo, and el Indomito. The semifinal saw a "revanona en superlibre" as Octagon, Octagoncito, and el Hijo del Santo met Fuerza Guerrera, Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, and Jerrito Estrada. The tercera saw the debut of Super Astro in the AAA. He teamed with el Angel Azteca and el Solar I to meet The Blue Panther, Rambo, and la Parka. The segunda had el Nuevo Angel Blanco, el Hijo del Angel Blanco, and Mister Condor (Romano Garcia) versus Katana, Kendo Star, and el Rey Misterio junior (Oscar Gutierrez). And, in the opener, no doubt off of television, we had los Micros Destruyores del Ring (el Pequeno Goliath, el Gran Nikolay, and Leon el Salvaje) versus el Micro Konnan el Barbaro (ex-Azurito), el Micro Misterioso, and el Micro Volador.

NEWS

* Jose Luis Arias "Aní" Romero, who had been wrestling as "Hussein, el Gran Sheick," has jumped here, and apparently will wrestle under his "nombre de pila." Also jumping here was Super Astro.

* **Titanes de Ring** reported that los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Tony Arce, el Volcano, and Rocco Valiente) were the new National Trios Champions, but I believe it was a misprint and they meant to call them National Parejas Champions, which they are. Los Hermanos Dinamita remain as National Trios Champions, though they have not had, to my knowledge, any title defenses in the last 365 days.

* In addition to the card mentioned above from Pueblo, Durango, the AAA also ran cards on Friday night, August 21st, 1992, in Tijuana, Baja California Norte; Queretaro, Queretaro; and Leon, Guadalaajara.

* In anticipation of calling a general strike, the old union, el Sindicato Nacional de Luchadores y Referis Profesionales de la Lucha Libre Mexicana (SNL) on Wednesday, August 19th, 1992, formally stripped all currently employed AAA wrestlers of their union memberships. This allows the SNL to say to any promoter, "If you use any non-SNL luchadores in the future, we will no longer supply to you for any card any SNL wrestlers." The target date for the strike was August 19th itself, but no actual strike (boycott really might be a more apropos word here) was formally called. As reported in bold print in **La Prensa**, SPECIFICALLY mentioned as being let go by the SNL were Rambo, el Hijo del Diablo, Fishman, Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, Tinieblas I, el Hijo de Tinieblas, Alushe (!), Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, Universo Dos Mil, Fuerza Guerrera, Octagon, Maremoto, Hecatombe, Terremoto, Katana, Kendo Star, el Fantasma, el Halcon 78, and el Falcon. Also singled out as threatened was promoter Paul Reyes.

AAA (continued)

- * This week's Custodia magazine lucha libre story really ripped the AAA for Konnan's "fake heart attack" angle.
- * Finally, their television, for the second straight week, aired at 9:00 am to 11:00 am local time (=Denver time).

TELEVISION

First I want to review the card that just aired this past Sunday night, August 23rd, 1992, on Galavisión. It was taped on Friday, August 14th, 1992, at "la Sala Teotihuacan" in el Centro de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico. They had a five-match card, and the highlights of the semifinal aired after the main event aired on television. In that semifinal, el Volador, el Misterioso, and captain el Ángel Azteca defeated Fishman, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and captain The Blue Panther two falls to one. This match began what will turn into a main-event feud with el Ángel Azteca and The Blue Panther involved. Just highlights aired, but what aired looked to be in the 2 1/2 to 3 star range. In the first fall, Fishman made el Misterioso submit to a side boston crab submission hold. In the second fall, el Misterioso pinned Fishman with perhaps the worst hurracarrana I have ever seen. And the third fall ended when el Ángel Azteca pinned The Blue Panther clean in the middle after a reverse diving head butt ("un tope en reversa"). Also, on the Cartometro this week, Octagon was the top tecnico; Psicosis the top rudo; The tag-team of Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and Konnan el Barbaro were the top pareja; the top trio was los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Ano Dos Mil); and the big event of the week was the entrance of the "death trio" from last weekend's TV.

Now onto the four matches that aired in their entirety. In the first match, tecnicos Thunderbird, Super Caio, and captain Winners defeated Heavy Metal, Picudo, and captain Psicosis two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:10. The first fall went to the rudos in 7:26 when simultaneously, Psicosis made Thunderbird submit to the figure four leg lock while el Picudo was pinning Thunderbird. The second fall went 3:13 before Winners pinned Psicosis clean with a double-arm suplex. The third fall went 5:31 before, after big dives, all six wrestlers were trying to scoot back into the ring before the count of twenty and only Super Caio made it. The big news here was that the second rope "broke" (it looked pre-planned to me) after Thunderbird stepped on the rope to do a big "tope en reversa" dive. Thunderbird looked simply spectacular at times, but at other times not so not; in fact, fans laughed at him a couple of times after missed moves. Psicosis was very good this week, and was even better than Heavy Metal, who looked somewhat lethargic to me. Super Caio, Winners, and el Picudo were all fine. Is it just me or, when el Picudo had his mask removed at the end of the second fall, did he take his time putting it on so that people could see who he really was? This was a good match but not a great match. At the end, rudos Heavy Metal and el Picudo shook hands with the tecnicos, but Psicosis blew them off, and Psicosis and Heavy Metal were exchanging words at the end. ***

The next match up, still with the second rope missing, was the mask versus mask match. In it, tecnico el Rey Misterio junior (Oscar Gutierrez), seconded by el Ángel Azteca, defeated rudo Mister Condor (Romano Garcia), seconded by The Blue Panther, two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:51. Like many lucha libre matches, this started out real slow (Bill Watts and Akira Maeda would have been proud of much of this) and built. The first fall went to Mister Condor in 3:47 when The Blue Panther snuck into the ring behind the back of heel referee el Tirantes (aka "el Suspenders") and fouled el Rey Misterio junior. The second fall went to the young tecnico (Oscar, who used to wrestle in Tijuana as "Colibri," is only 18) win 7:51 when he beat the count of twenty back into the ring and Mister Condor did not. The third fall went to el Rey Misterio junior in 5:13 with a clean pinfall via a beautiful hurracarrana. Mister Condor then unmasked; I don't believe I heard his name announced, but he is Romano Garcia, formerly with the UWA, and a native of the state of Michoacan, and who used to wrestle in Mexico City as one of "los Diabolicos." This was very good, especially with a ton of near falls in the third fall. I gave it *** 3/4. Antonio Pena put his face on television again this week, as he shooed away The Blue Panther from causing trouble in the post-match maelstrom.

The semifinal saw the first of the televised "Relevos AAA" match. It looked great, far better in reality than you might think on paper. We ended up with a double disqualification at the 15:52 mark. On the rudo side were super-mini-estrella Jerrito Estrada, Fuerza Guerrera, and captain Jerry "el Puma" Estrada. They faced the tecnico team of Octagon, captain el Hijo del Santo, and super-mini-estrella Octagoncito. The first fall went to Octagon, and he made Fuerza Guerrera submit to "la tiburazon" (the shark hold) in 10:22. The second fall went only 3:59 before Fuerza Guerrera pinned Octagon. And the third fall was even shorter, as both teams were disqualified for removing an opponent's mask; in particular, Fuerza Guerrera and Octagoncito had their hoods removed. This was super, as each of these six had their working shoes on and did great sopts. I STILL think people don't realize just how good a wrestler Octagon is; sure, he's got his routines, but his execution and timing are phenomenal. I am reminded to tell everyone (not that this match ever comes to the USA or anything) but, at the moment, the single best singles match available in Mexico -- even better than el Dandy versus Jose "el Negro" Casas -- is Fuerza Guerrera versus Octagon. Run, don't walk, to the ticket booth for that one. The double disqualification ending this week allowed them to bring this match back next week -- and they were supposed to have had an even better match!

AAA (continued)

TELEVISION (continued)

The main event this week (and isn't it every week now?) featured the tecnico trio of Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, la Mascara Sagrada, and captain Konnan el Copycat versus the rudo squadron of el Psicodelico, el Cobarde Segundo, and captain Cien Caras. This was, like last week, short and sweet. The first fall ended in 6:12 when, miracle of miracles, el Psicodelico did a clean job to a missile kick (off of the top rope drop kick) from la Mascara Sagrada. The second went 2:36 before el Cobarde pinned Konnan el Idea-Stealer with a flying drop from the corner. The third fall went only 1:35 before the rudos were disqualified. As it happens, rudo el Indomito entered the ring, handcuffed Konnan el I-Never-Miss-A-Trick-To-Get-Myself-Over to the middle rope (which had been re-installed after the mask match). Then, a split between the rudos occurred, as Cien Caras, who was portrayed almost as a face by the announcers, was basically turned on by the remaining trio of el Indomito, el Cobadre, and el Psicodelico. That set up this week's main event. I thought Konnan el Now-I-Stole-Randy "Macho Man" Savage's-Cool-Looking-Ring-Gear-To-Get-Myself-Over-Even-More was actually really good in the ring, but tonight's award for super work goes to el Cobarde Segundo, who looked the best I have EVER seen him (by far), and Cien Caras, who is a beautiful obnoxious heel. La Mascara Sagrada had his mask ripped, went to the locker room, replaced it, and re-emerged as "la Mascara Dorada!" The other thing I noted about this match was how the spots between el Psicodelico and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo looked liked they belonged in the "Cocoon" movies or something. Boy, are those guys old. All in all, I gave this match *** for the heat, the storyline, and the good work from unexpected sources.

And by the way, for those of you who speak Spanish, what could lead announcer Pedro Septien on tonight's show? Did he pay any attention to the matches themselves at all? At least the two other announcers they used tonight, Arturo Rivera and Raul Sarmiento, were better than usual. But Septien! Anyone who wants to compare him to Jack Brickhouse may have hit the nail directly on the head in this case. The arena was full (I'd say a sellout of 10,000+), the fans were hot (but not too hot), and even though poorly miked, a lot of the intensity got over well. A really good show, highly recommended.

NEXT WEEK'S TELEVISION

Now, skip this paragraph if you don't want to know what will air on Galavision next week. Thanks to Roy Lucien, I have details of the three top matches of the four that will air on August 30th's Galavision. Super Astro (Kevin Lyon's favorite all-time luchador), el Solar I, and captain el Angel Azteca defeated Rambo, la Parca, and captain The Blue Panther two falls to one. The first fall saw The Blue Panther counted out of the ring; the second saw el Angel Azteca submitting to a body-stretcher by The Blue Panther; and the third fall saw el Angel Azteca pin The Blue Panther clean in the middle with "la hurracarrana." Roy gave this one *** 3/4. The semifinal saw the "Relevos AAA" rematch ("revancha en superibre"). This time, we got a clean tecnico victory, as tecnicos Octagoncito, Octagon, and captain el Hijo del Santo won two out of three falls from Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, Jerrito Estrada, and captain Fuerza Guerrera. The first fall saw both Octagons pinned while el Hijo del Santo was counted out of the ring. The second fall went to the tecnicos with a triple simultaneous hurracarrana. And, in the final fall, el Hijo del Santo made Fuerza Guerrera submit clean in the middle to the "la de a caballo" (camel clutch). Roy loved this match and gave it **** 1/4. He described a spot where little Octagoncito tears into Fuerza Guerrera that was supposed to have gotten over really well. The Cartometro was up next. The top tecnico was el Rey Misterio junior (come on guys, over Octagon, el Hijo del Santo, Konnan el Barbaro, or Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo?). The top rudo was Carlos Rey's favorite rudo, el Indomito. The top pareja again was Konnan el Barbaro and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo. The top trio again was los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Ano Dos Mil). The "relevante" of the week was the introduction of the "Relevos AAA" match. And the lance of the week was from the 23rd television show, the dive by el Hijo del Santo onto Fuerza Guerrera. Then, we came to the main event -- the all-rudo battle. On one side were The Mexican National Trios Champions, the afore-mentioned los Hermanos Dinamita. On the other side was the rudo trio of el Cobarde Segundo, el Psicodelico, and el Indomito. This went to los Hermanos Dinamita in two straight falls. El Indomito was pinned by all three Dynamite Brothers to end the first fall and, while getting killed in the second fall, fouled Universo Ano Dos Mil to save further punishment. At the end of the match, rudos el Indomito and el Cobarde Segundo were so upset at the lack of support given their side by el Psicodelico that the two turned on el Psicodelico, which turned the crowd totally into cheering el Indomito and el Cobarde Segundo. El Indomito and brought handcuffs into the ring, but both he and el Cobarde Segundo were clocked with the handcuffs and juiced heavily (is there any other kind of bleeding in lucha libre?). Roy gave this match ****. Roy summarized by saying that, based on the matches he saw, that this was the best single week of AAA television that he had seen. At the fade-out of the show, the AAA put a video on the air. They showed some of the rudos like los Hermanos Dinamita leaving the arena elegantly by car. They saw some luchadores get onto an airplane. They then introduced some new super-mini-estrelas, including el Pequeno Rose (a gay midget?) and los Mini Destructores del Ring. I believe one of these midgets is the man who, as el Piratita Morgan, just lost his hair to Jerrito Estrada this month.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: EL PANTERITA DEL RING

Mostly what I cover in this newsletter is the lucha libre that occurs in and around Mexico City. There are plenty of other thriving circuits through Mexico that I don't have much access to. For example, I know of circuits in Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana, and Mexico's second largest city, Guadalajara. Many of the wrestlers who work these circuits are as talented and charismatic as the Mexico City-based stars. A good example of this would be the Tijuana circuit. In recent weeks, Tijuana stars Katana, Thunderbird, Psicosis, and el Rey Misterio junior have appeared on AAA television and met with wide acclaim. Well, in Mexico's third-largest city, that being Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, there is a thriving circuit as well, and its biggest star has jumped to the AAA recently. That wrestler is the subject of this week's mini-biography -- el Panterita del Ring. El Panterita del Ring was born in Gomez Palacios, Durango, on June 3rd, 1965. Gomez Palacios is the home of another of the AAA's finest wrestlers, that being The Blue Panther. In fact, if one looks at The Blue Panther and el Panterita del Ring closely, you will see many similarities in appearance and style. Even el Panterita del Ring's ring name bears honor to his idol, The Blue Panther. (This honor is widely felt among all the young luchadores in the Gomez Palacios area). At the age of 16, el Panterita del Ring had already decided that he wanted to make lucha libre his occupation. He enrolled in the lucha libre classes being offered at that time by the same wrestler who was The Blue Panther's original coach -- el Asterion. El Panterita del Ring trained there for just over three years before making his professional wrestling debut on May 29th, 1985, at San Pedro, Coahuila, Mexico. Soon he won the "Laguna Lightweight" Championship (the word "Laguna" in this sense refers to a general area of Mexico; a similar example would be "Western States" Champion). In 1986, el Panterita del Ring made it to Monterrey, where he worked his way to the main events quickly. In fact, until 1992, el Panterita del Ring wrestled maybe one or two matches a year in the Mexico City area and spent the rest of his time on the Monterrey circuit in the north of Mexico. His biggest success there has actually come in defeat. Jose "el Negro" Casas won the UWA World Middleweight Championship in January 1991. In June of 1991, in a non-title main event, el Panterita del Ring cleanly defeated Casas in the third fall to set up a title match "down the road." Finally, that match happened -- on January 3rd, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo de Monterrey. Casas won in the third fall and, I believe, won another singles match between the two in the rural northern Mexico area. El Panterita del Ring had now become THE biggest star on the Monterrey circuit. In 1991, EMLL promoter Paco Alonso made a play for Panterita, bringing him in to the Mexico City area for non-televvised cards. However, in July of 1992, el Panterita was courted and signed by Mexico's newest national promotion, the AAA. Immediately, as small as he is (176 cm tall and 83 kg heavy, or 5'9" and 183 pounds), was pushed near the top of the cards. In his first match in, on Friday, July 24th, 1992, el Panterita del Ring did a clean job to Rambo in the third fall of a semifinal trios match. Then, the next week (7/31), the AAA came to Monterrey, and el Panterita del Ring cleanly went over Jerry "el Puma" Estrada via a clean pinfall with a sunset flip in the third fall of a semifinal trios match. There was such respect for el Panterita del Ring that el Brazo de Oro, the booker for the Universal promotion, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, the main liaison between the Mexican and Japanese offices, drafted el Panterita del Ring for the August 1992 tour of the Universal Wrestling Federation (the lucha libre group) in Japan. There el Panterita del Ring got over so well that one magazine called him "a new hero" while another called him "Monterrey's ace, very dynamic" with his high-flying and acrobatic style. Actually, I had not been overly impressed with el Panterita del Ring the first two times I had seen him on Galavisión, but Dave Meitner saw him live on this Japanese tour and said that he was fairly impressed. All in all, this guy's got a nice future in this business as a top-drawing tecnico babyface.

REALLY REALLY LATE NEWS

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REALLY REALLY LATE NEWS

Well, my desktop publishing program "crashed" tonight, so I am typing this on a 1983-issue word processing program. Lots of Late News...

UWA:

Here are the results from el Toreo on 8/23/92. The main event saw Dos Caras, The Pegasus Kid, and el Villano III defeat Kokina, Miguel Perez junior, and The Killer two falls to one when III pinned Killer with "la hurracarrana." The semifinal saw el Texano, Silver King, and Enrique Vera defeat Kokina, Scorpio junior, and el Loco Zandokan two falls to one. Texano and Zandokan both bled buckets. The story was that at the end of this match, los Cowboys turned heel by attacking el Villano III on III's way to the ring (guess it didn't hurt III too much in the next match). The finish of the semifinal saw Kokina try to splash Vera but hit ref el Freseo instead for the DQ. The tercera saw Los Crazy Star I y II and el Engendro defeat The King, Rocky Santana, and Transformer two falls to one. The segunda saw Lasser, Aero Flash, and el Ojo de Tigre defeat The Baby Face I, Kahos I, and Scorpio I when Baby Face sent Lasser out on a stretcher with the illegal tombstone in the third fall. The opener saw los Dragones CHinos I y II and el Gran Apache I defeat el Polvora and los Espantos IV and V...The UWA was at la Arena Puebla on Monday, August 24th, 1992, with a main event of The Pegasus Kid, Enrique Vera senior, and Dos Caras versus Miguel Perez junior, The Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer. The semifinal saw el Texano, Silver King, and el Villano V versus Zandokan, el Engendro, and el Scorpio junior. The segunda saw el Villano I, el Villano IV, and Transformer versus los Crazy Star I y II and el Scorpio I. The inicial had Sato, el Tigre Californiense, and Rocky Santana versus el Rudo, Zeus, and el Bucanero junior...Tuesday, 8/25/92, at Pachuca, Hidalgo, the main event was Dos Caras, el Villano III, and Transformer versus los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte in a non-title match. The semifinal saw la Ola Lila versus el Celestial, Korak, and el Tigre Canadiense. The segunda had los Dragones CHinos I y II versus el Rudo and Casandro. And the opener had Bat Blue versus The Blue Prince...Also on 8/25 Tuesday, this time at la Arena Queretaro, the UWA main-evented Miguel Perez junior, The Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer versus Silver King, el Texano, and The Pegasus Kid. The semifinal saw las Panteras Rosas versus Shu, el Guerrero, el Loco Zandokan, and el Scorpio junior. The tercera had Rocky Santana and Lasser versus los Crazy Star I y II. The segunda had el Nuevo Huracan Ramirez junior and el Hijo de Huracan Ramirez versus el Ciclon Mackey and el Insolito. And the opener saw el Migra versus Razama....The UWA announced that the main event for a zoo benefit card to be held Saturday, 8/29/92 at "el Deportivo Plan Sexanal" in Mexico City would have The Pegasus Kid defending his WWF World Light Heavyweight Championship versus el Villano IV...And, the UWA has already announced the main event for next Sunday's (8/30) el Toreo Show -- a "parejas increibles" match with Enrique Vera senior and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) teaming up to face Canek and Dos Caras. Also due in on that card are Ricky Santana and Rocky Santana, plus Silver King, el Texano, Los Villanos I/III/IV/V, and The Pegasus Kid...Lastly for the UWA, they announced that these wrestlers would be on a tour of Japan from September 2, 1992

to September 12th, 1992: Transformer, Rocky Santana, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, The Black Power II (aka Power Slam Johnny), Dos Caras, Casandro, el Villano IV, and Shu, el Guerrero.

EMLL:

Jose "el Negro" Casas defeated Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon two falls to one last Saturday (8/22/92) in San Luis Potosi to retain his UWA World Middleweight Championship. Then, in a major surprise, the EMLL announced that these two would have a title rematch as the main event for the show this coming Friday night (8/28/92) at la Arena Coliseo, the last Friday night at la Arena Coliseo before the EMLL begins its longest tour of the year at la Arena Mexico...The EMLL also announced that Apolo Dantes would defend his NWA World Light Heavyweight Championship versus challenger el Hijo del Solitario on Sunday (8/29/92) at la Arena Naucalpan...And speaking of la Arena Naucalpan, I have the results from the card of Sunday, August 23rd, 1992. The main event saw los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damina, el Guerrero) retain their State of Mexico Trios Championships by defeating el Trueno, el Metalico, and Talisman junior two falls to one. The semifinal saw el Piratita Morgan, el Ultratumbita, and el Felinito win a mini battle versus a Mascarita Magica, Tritoncito, and el Cicloncito Ramirez. The tercera saw King Imperio, el Munra, and el Tarasco I defeat el Cristero, la Arana Negra, and (not listed in papers). The segunda saw el Capitan and los ABC I y II defeat el Puma Negro, la Alma de Acero, and el Suspenso two falls to one. And in the opener, el Sueno Eterno defeated Mister Teimpo two falls to one...I also have the results of the top three matches at la Arena Coliseo from 8/23/92. The main event saw Oro, Atlantis, and The Black Magic win two falls to one over Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Jose "el Negro" Casas via disqualification in the third fall. These six were said in the papers to have clowned their way through the match. The semifinal saw Kung Fu cleanly defeat Kato Kung Lee senior in the third fall to win for himself and his rudo teammates Titan and America; Kato's teammates were Plata and Bronce. The tercera saw el Septiembre Negro junior, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Archangel de la Muerte defeat Kato Kung Lee junior, el Solar II, and el Halcon de Plata two falls to one...This week's Arena Magazine has lead stories on "el Vampiro in Los Angeles", Jose "el Negro" Casas, and los Intocables del Ring, and "maxi-posters" of la Mascara Magica, el Tigre Canadiense, Jose "el Negro" Casas (with Stephanie Salas), and los Intocables del Ring.

AAA:

The AAA announced that the television taping to be taped this Friday (August 28th, 1992) and to air on Galavision on Sunday, September 6th, 1992, will be from el Palenque del Hipodromo in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico. (Too bad that's the same night as the Carl Hairston match in Bell)...Among those already being advertised are Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, Universo Dos Mil, el Cobarde Segundo, el Indomito, el Sicodelico, and more. Then, the week of 9/5/92, the television taping will emanate from Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

PLUG:

Lastly, before I sign off, I wanted to give a plug for anyone interested in AAA, UWA, EMLL (including from Guadalajara) and even Japan to Roy Lucier. Write Roy at his address in Garden Grove, CA, 92355. Bye til next week! Steve...